OCT. 12-13, 2001

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive and NLTA Administrative Staff met on October 12 and 13 in St. John's. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information on any of these issues or information contained here please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities
As identified in the August edition of Executive Notes, the four priorities for the Association, on behalf of teachers, for this school year are: Concluding a Collective Agreement; Quality of Teachers' Work Life; Membership Involvement; and Communication.

A detailed document was circulated to Executive members outlining action plans under each topic, who is responsible, the target date for implementation and an action update if available.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

President's Report
Since the beginning of the school year the President has been active in a school visitation program. He has visited all schools in Labrador in District 1, and will visit the remainder of the schools in Labrador in District 2 in the very near future. Although all the school visits have not involved formal meetings, the visits have been very productive.

The President has been in contact with the media (radio and newspaper) concerning teacher supply and demand, workload, NAPE/School Board strike, and negotiations.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Collective Bargaining
Executive was provided with a detailed update on the status of negotiations and progress to date. Since the last Executive Meeting in August, negotiating sessions were held September 26 to 28 and October 9 and 10. Updates by way of Bargaining Briefs were

provided to teachers on August 30 and October 3, and teachers are encouraged to review this information. A further issue is being distributed during the week of October 15 (Vol. 7, No. 8). Further talks will be occurring on October 22 and 23, with a Bargaining Brief to follow.

For further information contact Winston Carter, or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

New Executive Director Appointed
The Provincial Executive Council has appointed Edward Hancock as Executive Director of the NLTA effective November 1, 2001. Ed has been employed on the Association's Administrative staff since 1986 and has been in the position of Assistant Executive Director since 1997. Ed replaces Wayne Noseworthy in the position of Executive Director. Wayne has been named Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

The position of Assistant Executive Director will be advertised immediately. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
At the 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the following were identified as CTF priorities for 2001-02:

- advancing a strong, fully funded education system;
- developing and promoting actions to continue opposition to commercialization and privatization initiatives in public education;
- addressing such issues as: accountability in education; teacher supply and demand; education of CanadaÕs children and youth; international trade agreements (GATS, FTAA); technology and the well-being of children; which are central to the strength of the public school system in Canada, the well-being of the teaching profession, and the cause of children and youth;
- continuing the International Development Assistance Program (IDAP) and promoting education for all through the new CTF-CIDA SODEP program, and in cooperation with CTF member organizations, CSQ, EI and OXFAM;
- actively promoting CTF policy on French- language education in minority settings, with emphasis on early childhood educational services and integration of eligible students into French-language public schools;
- intervening as required to promote CTF position on new and continuing federal government legislative initiatives (e.g., young offenders legislation, Federal Budget 2002, copyright, etc.).

There were several other resolutions passed at the AGM. For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Business from Standing Committees

COMMUNICATIONS/POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The theme for the 2002 Christmas Card Contest will be "Peace on Earth".

For further information contact Fred Wood, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN TEACHING COMMITTEE

- In view of a recent financial analysis, the Professional Development Fund will be used exclusively to fund individual applications, and grants to organizations (regional/provincial) will be suspended for this year.
- The maximum grant to individuals from the Professional Development Fund will be reduced from the current $1,000 to a maximum of $800 and effective immediately the eligibility requirement will be changed from once every three years to once every five years.
- The Centennial Fund Education Research guidelines will be changed to read: "All proposals to be considered for funding under the Centennial Fund Educational Research Program must be received on or before March 31."

For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park, RenŽ Wicks, Professional Development Division.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

- The lifetime limit on Employee Assistance Program funding to members will be increased from $1,000 to $2,000, except for members previously enrolled under a $5,000 limit who will continue at that level.
- The $30 limit of 50% of counselling visits will be raised to $40.
- There will be no retroactivity to these changes proposed to be enacted for November 1, 2001.

For further information contact Paul Matthews, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

TABLE OFFICERS

- The Associatio's automobile reimbursement rates shall be established at 49% of the average cost of self-serve, regular gasoline, as determined on the first day of each fiscal quarter and will remain constant for the specific quarter. It is understood that the average cost referenced here shall mean the cost as determined for the island portion of the province.
- The sponsorship by NLTA of student interns from Memorial University's Faculty of Education in regions of coastal Labrador and remote areas of the island of Newfoundland will continue.
- A proposal regarding the promotion of contact between artists and K-12 students was approved.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Other Business
The Association will poll teachers regarding continuing priorities for the current round of negotiations, and the survey instrument will be approved by Provincial Executive prior to being forwarded to teachers. Branch Presidents will be asked to compile the results in their branches and be prepared to discuss the outcomes at the November Joint Council Meeting. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

The President will heighten awareness with the public of teachers' concerns regarding the deteriorating conditions in many schools due to the continuing strike by support staff workers in seven of the school districts. For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Discussion Topics
The following were discussed b' Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: Workload Study; Province-Wide Voting; TeachersÕ Health, Safety and Welfare; Actuarial Report on the Teachers' Pension Plan; Substitute Teachers; Department Head Bonuses; Policy Grievance; and Professional Development in Teacher Organizations 2001 and Beyond.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Report of the National Broadband Task Forc"
Copies of the "Report of the National Broadband Task ForceÓ were circulated to members of Provincial Executive and a brief summary of the report was provided by Alex Hickey, Coordinator of the Virtual Teacher Centre. The National Broadband Task Force was established in January 2001 by the Minister of Industry. The principal mandate of the Task Force was to map out a strategy for

achieving the Government of CanadaÒs goal of ensuring that broadband services are available to businesses and residents in every Canadian community by 2004. In addition, the Task Force was asked to advise the government on issues related to the development and deployment of broadband networks and services in Canada.

As a result of this presentation and discussion by Provincial Executive the following motion was passed: The Association will take an official stand and lobby governments to action the recommendation from the National Broadband Task Force that high-speed connectivity be available to every community across Canada by the year 2004.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Alex Hickey, Coordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for November 22 in St. John's. Joint Council will meet on November 23 and 24. For further information contact Winston Carter, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

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